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[traversetrails.org](http://traversetrails.org)

## Connecting Communities

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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

TART Trails is happy to join the growing coalition of individuals and organizations across Michigan supporting SB 1029, SB1030, SB 1076, SB 1077, and SB 1078. This package of bills will help provide necessary protections to all users of the road by creating clear safety standards for safe interactions between drivers and cyclists.

As an organization that supports active lifestyles and understands that safe public infrastructure and education is critical to promoting healthy living, it is unfortunate to note that our state lags behind when it comes to protecting bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users. This year has been especially difficult with the number of high profile bicycle fatalities involving motor vehicles, and we believe that passage of these bills will help prevent future such tragedies.

Ensuring safer roads for cyclists begins with including training during drivers education in order to make sure that new drivers understand the rights of cyclists. These bills will make sure all new drivers in the state are educated about cycling infrastructure and how to operate a motor vehicle safely while in the presence of cyclists on the road.

Next, a five foot passing standard for cars passing bikes on the road will help protect cyclists and bring Michigan up to speed with the many other states that have already passed similar laws. A common bicycle/auto crash occurs while a vehicle is attempting to pass on the road when both are heading in the same direction. Creating clearer guidelines for how motorists should interact with cyclists on the road while passing is an essential safety measure that will help save lives.

Finally, stronger enforcement and stiffer penalties for motorists who injure or kill cyclists is an important measure to deter reckless and life threatening driving behavior. Enhanced penalties will further increase the standard of care for drivers around non-motorized roadway users.

TART Trails is happy to join the growing support for these bills and is happy to see such widespread bi-partisan support among the legislature. Thank you for your leadership and your work to make Michigan roads safer for everyone.  
Sincerely,

Julie Clark  
Executive Director